

# Ames Historical Society

AMES • IOWA

## Newsletter to Members 2016 FALL.....ISSUE #4/4

*Discovering our history,  
Preserving our past,  
Sharing our stories.*



Browse the Museum Shop for unique,  
history-related gift ideas!  
25% off for members through Dec. 22

### Ames Historical Society Board:

<b>Co-President</b>	Mary Atherly
<b>Co-President</b>	Kathy Svec
<b>Secretary</b>	Lynette Spicer
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ken Cameron

Don Beitz, Shannon Bardole, Bob Bourne, Jan Breitman, Keith Bystrom, Peter Hallock, Mary Logsdon, Ryan Riley, Ardy Ulrichson, Sharon Wirth, Hank Zaletel

*The Board meets the 2nd Thursday of each month  
6:45pm at 416 Douglas. Members welcome!*

### Staff:

<b>Executive Director</b>	Casie Vance
<b>Projects Coordinator</b>	Alex Fejfar
<b>Collections Mgr./Volunteer Coord.</b>	Hannah Frederick

### Emeritus Staff:

Alan Spohnheimer, Margaret Vance,  
Dennis Wendell

Ames Historical Society is an incorporated,  
501c3 not-for-profit organization whose  
mission is to engage our diverse public and  
provide unique opportunities to learn about  
Ames history.

**Headquarters:** 416 Douglas, Ames, IA 50010

**Hours:** as of 12/1 - Tue. - Sat. 10am-4pm

**Mail:** PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010

**Phone:** 515-232-2148

**E-mail:** [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org)

**Website:** [www.AmesHistory.org](http://www.AmesHistory.org)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety](http://www.facebook.com/ameshistoricalsociety)

The **newsletter** is published four times a year  
for AHS members. Direct comments and  
questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA  
50010 or e-mail above. Editor: Kathy Svec

**Hoggatt School** is located on the grounds of  
Meeker School, near 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett, Ames,  
Iowa. It is open Sundays, June to August and by  
apt. April to October. Closed November to  
March.



## 2016 Holiday Special Events

### Friday, November 11

Main Street Cultural District's Snow Magic Kickoff  
History Center Open House, 5-8pm

### **View the New Exhibit:**

***Season's Greetings: Christmas Through the Years***  
on display at the History Center through December 22

### Friday, Nov. 11 to Sunday Nov. 27

### **Festival of Trees**

at the Octagon Center for the Arts, 427 Douglas  
See our tree, themed for our new exhibit – *WW II: Ames Doing Its Part*  
*Open Mon.- Fri. 10 am-5 pm; Sat. 1-5 pm; Sun. Nov. 27, 1-5 pm*

### Saturday, December 3

### **Christmas Traditions Day at the History Center**

Old-Fashioned Christmas with Santa, 11am-2pm  
See the "Season's Greetings" exhibit; refreshments, kid crafts, music



**Members: bring this coupon  
for 25% off your entire purchase  
in the Museum Shop.**

(members only; expires December 22, 2017)

## Society News – Around the Ames History Center

### New Open Hours Starting Dec. 1

Effective December 1<sup>st</sup>, open hours at the Ames History Center will change. New hours will be Tuesday through Saturday, 10am to 4pm. This will increase open hours from 26 hours per week to 30. Being closed on Mondays (our lowest usage day) will align the Ames History Center with standard open days in many museums. The change was prompted by the desire to offer more open hours to the community and a change in federal wage and hours regulations.



### Congratulations to Hannah

Society Collections Manager/Volunteer Coordinator, Hannah Frederick, celebrated her marriage to Justin Skarin on October 29. We extend our sincere and happy congratulations! Justin is a graphic designer and active volunteer for the Society. He - like Hannah - is often seen around the History Center doing a wide variety of jobs (including MusicWalk musician).

When we checked their online registry, we were surprised to learn that Hannah and Justin asked their guests to forego gifts and instead, contribute to the Society's building fund to kick-start a campaign to solve the pressing space issues at the History Center! Now that's a couple with a passion for our organization!



### Society Wish List

Very grateful thanks go to Ted and Joanie Tedesco who donated a second humidifier and to Kathy Svec and James and Martha Griesheimer for donating vintage kids' games.

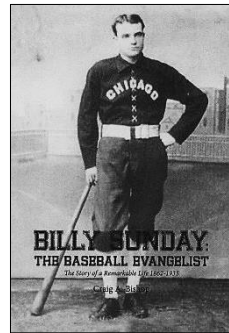


Other wishes:

- Funds for archival boxes for the collection (approximately \$13 each)
- Sawhorses
- Ames photos from 1960s (largely missing from Ames Tribune archive)
- Ongoing subscription to newspaperarchive.com (6 months - \$99.95)

Let us know if you can help by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org)

### Get the Billy Sunday Biography



In the last newsletter, we mentioned the picture-laden new biography of Billy Sunday by one of our lecture series speakers, Craig Bishop. To purchase a copy, go online to Facebook and type in "Billy Sunday: Baseball Evangelist." There is a bookstore button and it will walk you through it. Or call Bishop at 1-320-582-0138.

### Carr's Pool interpretive sign

Society emeritus staffer, Dennis Wendell, took the initiative to write text, locate pictures and fund a historical interpretive sign to be placed at the site of Carr's Pool. Ames Parks chief, Keith Abraham, approved the design and Howe's Welding created the iron frame for the 24 x 36" sign that is slanted and low to meet ADA requirements. Thanks also go to former Parks & Rec Commission member, Leo Milleman for getting the ball rolling! Installation may be next spring.

### Octagon on National Register



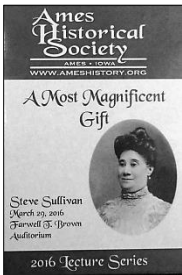
During the 2016 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Octagon Center for the Arts, work was completed to place their building on the National Register of Historic Places. The 1916 structure was built for Wallace Greeley to house the Masonic Temple. This structure joins 18 other National Register listings in Ames – 17 individual structures and the entire Old Town District. Also, a new book by Martha Benson chronicling the first 25 years of the Octagon may be purchased in the Octagon Shop for \$20.

### News briefs

- **Hallway exhibits** at the History Center are Julia Laughlin: Ames' Woman Stationmaster, Early Autos in Ames, History of CyRide, ACTORS.
- Join the 1,616 people who "like" us on Facebook.
- A new archives air conditioner was installed this fall to replace one that was close to failing. The archives are kept at 68° to ensure preservation.

## Society News – Around the Ames History Center

### Museum Shop Holiday Sale



Let our Holiday Sale in the Museum Shop tempt you to give history-themed gifts: **10% off** to all shoppers from Nov. 11 through Dec. 22.

This can be added to the **25% off** coupon (see page 1) to Society members!

Open hours through November will be Monday – Friday, 1-5 pm, Saturday 10 am to 4 pm. Starting December 1, hours will be Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4pm.

### 2017 Annual Meeting: March 4

The Society's annual meeting will take place Saturday, March 4, 10 am at Ames Public Library's auditorium. In addition to an overview of 2016 activities, a guided tour of our new website will acquaint members with the surprising amount of rich historic material that is provided to site users and tips and tricks will be given for maximizing site usefulness. In tracking users, we see that they stop in at our site from all over the world!

### We'd Like Website Feedback

We'd like to encourage members to give us feedback on our new website. If there is anything confusing or if something cannot be found, be sure to let us know by calling 515-232-2148 or emailing [info@ameshistory.org](mailto:info@ameshistory.org).



Don't forget:

- All our Museum Shop items are on view plus online ordering and payment.
- Online payment through PayPal can be made for membership renewal, donations, and event and workshop registrations.



Ten Iowa State University students came to the History Center to help dismantle the "Expansion" exhibit. The Society's staff is pleased to have a number of college-aged volunteers. Several are interested in museum careers.

### Plaques Walking Tour Guide



In the last newsletter, we reported on the May walking tour that showcased plaques that have been placed on historic Main Street buildings.

The walking tour guide has been reprinted and is available to residents who would like to tour Main Street on their own. Pick up a copy at the History Center or Public Library.

This guide is one of several walking tour guides that can be picked up or purchased at the History Center – a great activity for families and visitors.



Meeker School 3<sup>rd</sup> graders visited Hoggatt School in October, hosted by the Society's Alex Fejfar and Hannah Frederick. ?? school groups visited Hoggatt this fall.

## Upcoming Exhibits

### New Exhibits Coming

Make plans to see two new exhibits in the main gallery:

#### Season's Greetings:

#### Christmas Through the years

On display, Fri. Nov. 11 through Thur. Dec. 22. Come see trees representing different eras: pioneer tree, Victorian tree, a feather tree (with instructions for how to make one), aluminum tree and an interactive felt tree. A vintage, miniature village will enchant visitors, larger-than-life holiday photos from the Society's archives will remind us of winters past and interactive, playful facts about Christmas traditions may provide some surprises.



Don't forget: Old-Fashioned Christmas with Santa, Sat., Dec. 3, 11am-2pm - refreshments, crafts, music. Join us in celebrating the holiday season!

#### WW II – Ames Doing Its Part

To commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the start of World War II, the Society will present *WW II: Ames Doing Its Part*. The exhibit will feature stories about day-to-day life in Ames for those who stayed at home and supported the war effort in countless ways.

A sneak-preview of the exhibit will be Friday, Jan. 13, 4-5:30 pm at our first 2017 Members After Hours (members-only). The exhibit will open to the public on Sat. Jan. 14.

The exhibit will be on view through September 30. A series of WW II themed History Talks are planned.



#### German Iowa

We're providing advanced notice for the traveling exhibit, *German Iowa and the Global Midwest* that will be on display at the Ames Public Library, March 15 through April 3, 2017. The Exhibit will explore Iowa's multi-cultural history by focusing on the largest group of European origin to settle in the state.

More information will be provided next year about corresponding events. The Society is partnering with Ames Public Library and the ISU History Department.

## Local Stories

### Remembering World War II in Ames, Iowa

by Betty Johnson, Minnetonka, MN

*This article was selected to "set the mood" for the WWII exhibit that will open in January at the History Center. Betty's story is one of many in the "Your Stories" section of the Historical Society's website. Look under "Archives & Collections/Your Stories."*

When I was growing up in Ames during the Great Depression and World War II and their aftermath, I was Betty Lou Gulliver or Elizabeth or Betty Gulliver, depending on how old I was and who was teaching my class in school.

My parents, Henry and Hildred Gulliver, moved to Ames from Wayne, Nebraska, in 1931 when I was 6 months old. The family grew with the addition of four siblings born from 1933 to 1940. My father had a radio repair and sound systems business, adding TV after the war. (Some may remember Gulliver's TV.)

When World War II began, I was a ten-year-old in 5th grade at Whittier School at Lincoln Way and Hazel. I realize that the war touched my life as a child in a much different way than if I had been even a few years older. The only close relative in the service was my uncle, who



was in the Air Force Meteorological Corps in England.

My parents wanted our lives to be as normal as possible under the circumstances of rationing and other restrictions, and probably shielded us somewhat from the awfulness of the war in Europe and the Pacific. Not having TV to show everything instantaneously was significant. Most of what I now know about World War II came in the years after it was over. The things I remember were the things that affected me directly.

A Good Neighbor Policy had been proclaimed toward all countries south of the border. Reinforcing that were some of what we saw at the movie theater, for instance, Disney's animated movie, *Three Caballeros*, and movies starring Xavier Cugat and Carmen Miranda dancing those exotic Latin numbers and singing in English that was heavily Spanish-accented. Latin



## Local Stories

dances were popular, especially the Conga line, even in the 8th grade dance class my parents made me take, though mostly we learned more sedate dances like the fox-trot and waltz and two-step. WOI radio broadcast Spanish language lessons regularly and the whole family sat around the radio to listen and learn.

I remember going out into the country and collecting milkweed pods for the kapok which supposedly was used to make life jackets buoyant. (We wondered if it really worked.) There was a can on the back of the stove to collect fat from cooking; when it was full my mom took it somewhere for recycling.



We, like everyone we knew, had a Victory Garden, which we were expected to help plant, hoe and harvest. Canning the excess was a big job that the whole family participated in, including my retired grandparents who lived with us during the warmer months.

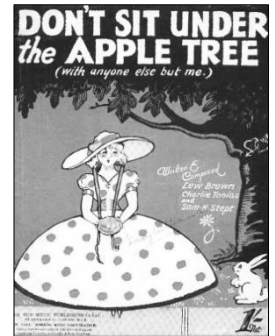
One summer my father (an incurable owner of new-fangled things and an inventor himself) brought home a contraption that would seal tin cans, and those were added to the glass jars on the cellar shelves; occasionally a bulging lid would betray a poor seal & a can would be thrown out, usually before it exploded on the shelf with very messy results.

Mom and Dad were Red Cross first aid instructors, leading classes in the evenings, so our hired girl, Carrie Ann, would come and baby sit. Mom and Dad taught us many Red Cross skills.

I remember convoys of rumbling planes going over like migrating flocks of geese; small flags in house windows with one or more blue or gold stars on them; taking 10 cents to school once a week to buy a savings stamp to paste in a small booklet which, when full, would be exchanged for a war savings bond. They were cashed in after the war to help pay for our college expenses.



My 8th grade (1943-4) music class on the second floor of Central Junior High School on Clark was taught by a young woman who thought the usual songs we were supposed to learn were neither interesting nor relevant, so we sang patriotic music and the theme songs of every branch of the armed forces, usually more than one verse: *The Caissons Go Rolling Along* (Army), *Off we Go Into the Wild Blue Yonder* (Air Force), *From the Halls of Montezuma* (Marines) and *Anchors Aweigh* (Navy).



We also learned songs like *Praise the Lord and Pass the Ammunition*, *Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree with Anyone Else But Me*, *Mairzy Doats*, *Remember Pearl Harbor*, *Accentuate the Positive*, and *a-Tisket, a-Tasket*.

We listened to the Top 40 Hits on the radio and the tabletop juke boxes at Moore's Dairy and loved the Andrews Sisters, Bing Crosby, Kate Smith (*God Bless America*).

When we went to the movies at the Collegian Theater (10 cents until I turned 12 years old), the newsreels and



*March of Time* documentary films preceding the film were visual reminders of the war going on far away.

The movies that resonated most with this romantic, impressionable teenager were those about finding love, then being separated by the war, sometimes forever. The songs from those years (mostly from the movies) still take me back: *As Time Goes By*, *I'll Walk Alone*, *I'll be Seeing You*, *It's Been a Long Long Time*, *On Blueberry Hill*.



### 2017 Lecture Series Dates Set

The 2017 Lecture Series will again take place at the Ames Public Library, Farwell Brown Auditorium.

- Tuesday, March 28, 7pm

#### **The Football Controversy at Iowa State College, 1894-1897**

By Douglas Biggs, *Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Kearney*

- Wednesday, April 19, 7pm

#### **The Roosevelt: From Classrooms to Condos**

By Teresa Larson, *Shared Stories videographer*

- Tuesday, May 23, 7pm

#### **Main Street Building “Secrets”**

By Sharon Wirth and Judy Gilger, *researchers, Main Street Historical Plaque Project*

- Wednesday, June 28, 7pm

#### **Prehistoric Story County**

By Matt Donovan, *Iowa D.O.T. Archeologist and Historian*

### I.M.A. Wrap-Up



The Iowa Museum Association held their annual conference in Ames on October 16-18. A session titled *Celebrating Community: Ames' Museum on the Streets* was presented by

Society board member, Sharon Wirth and Judy Gilger of the Main Street Cultural District. They spoke about collaboration by Ames Historical Society, City of Ames Historic Preservation Commission and the Main Street Cultural District.

The talk focused on recent projects: information plaques on historic buildings and banners on street light poles celebrating Ames' early leaders (that are still on view). Sharon and Judy talked about building collaborations, how they did their research and funding. The next part of the project will be an interactive tour of the Main Street area that – when completed - will be on the Society's web site.

During the conference, the Society hosted several social gatherings and all three staff members served on the organizing committee.

### Born at Mary Greeley Stories

It's always a treat to find other organizations collecting local history stories. To celebrate the hospital's centennial in 2016, a call was put out for “Born at Mary Greeley” stories. Since the Medical Center delivers around 1,000 babies a year, there are lots of stories! Here is a sampling of several winter stories. Read more at [www.mgmc.org](http://www.mgmc.org) – then search “Born at Mary Greeley Stories.”



#### **Blizzard Baby**

by Chris Miller Alexander, Ames

I was born at Mary Greeley on Dec. 29, 1948. This is the story my parents always told. They were living five miles south of Maxwell but had been at a friend's house about a mile north of Maxwell playing cards. They decided to leave early because there was a blizzard coming. It usually took them about 15 minutes to get home on the 210 blacktop. Not long after they got home, mom went into labor.

They called the doctor and he told them to meet him at the corner of 210 and the road they lived on. They met him and the doctor wanted my mother to ride to the hospital with him but she wanted to stay with my dad. So the doctor followed my parents into town. He kept his head stuck out the driver's side window so he could follow my dad's taillights in the blowing snow. The drive took them 2 hours.

They got to the hospital at 2:30 a.m., I was born at 3 a.m. The doctor caught his worst cold ever and was out of commission for several days. On November 6, 1983, I gave birth to my daughter at Mary Greeley. The weather was a lot nicer that day!



#### **A Snowy Walk**

Laura Galbraith, Maxwell

The day I was born my parents almost didn't make it to MGMC. We were unable to get to the highway because the snowplow got stuck on the gravel road. My parents walked to the highway where an ambulance picked them up. I was born by C-section.



#### **Highway Home**

Norma Sandvick, Ames

My mom always told me each year on my birthday that there was a horrible blizzard on the night I was born. My dad had to come from Des Moines and he was the last car to get through before they closed the highway. Now, on my birthday, I always wish I could hear Mom tell me that story just one more time.

# Accomplishments and Challenges

## Accomplishments Y.T.D.

The Society's staff tracks statistics through-out the year to help us figure out if we are meeting our mission of service to the community. Here are a few of those numbers for 2016 - some are pretty **exciting!**

- Total visitors through early October: **1,096**. Year-to-date this time in 2015: 1,085.
- Total volunteer hours through early October: **4,558**. Year-to-date this time in 2015: 4,347.
- Volunteers worked **601.5 hours** in September. This is the highest number of volunteer hours in a month we have ever had! The next-closest month still falls behind by about 60 hours.
- We gained **13 new volunteers** in September. Most of them are ISU or high school students, with a couple of middle school kids who come in on Saturdays.
- We now have **1594 likes** on Facebook. This time last year we had 835 likes.
- We currently have **571 active members**.
- Total new members in 2016 to date: **18**. Year-to-date this time in 2015: 41. (So – we have a few new members to **gain** to meet our 2016 goal of 50!)
- Total programs in 2016 to date: **61** for **2,591** people. Year-to-date this time in 2015: 34 programs for 1,382 people.
- Total open houses to date: **12** attended by **951** people. Year to date by this time in 2015: 9 open houses attended by 711 people

## Website Statistics, September 1-30:

- Sessions: **2,262**
- Average pages per session: **4.12**
- Average session duration: **2 min 39 sec**
- Approximately **75.02%** of the sessions were from first-time visitors to the website.
- **87.75%** of the sessions were from United States.
- **16.31%** of the sessions were from Ames.
- **71.57%** of the sessions were from computers, **20.65%** were from smart phones, and **7.78%** were from tablets.

## County Alliance

Staff attended the Story County Historical Alliance meeting on October 12 in Cambridge. The group meets twice a year and is an informal organization for all the county historical societies. The fall meeting is attended by the Story County Board of Supervisors to hear activity reports; they praised the group's efforts to preserve local history. The county provides funding of several thousand dollars to each of these organizations.

## Challenges & Appeal

Response to our 2016 programming has broken **new records** and we are proud that staff and volunteers have built a solid record of service to the Ames community.

We're pleased to find that we are a treasured community resource. We want to continue to respond to residents' demand for more services but we face big challenges and **need your help:**

- Collections storage is **at full capacity** and new arrangements need to be found for additional space.
- There are more demands on our staff and new federal regulations that strictly define the number of hours they can work. We need to provide our talented staff with **a living wage** - and additional staff is needed.
- We occupy half of our building. We need to **build our Endowment** from \$125,000 to \$600,000-plus so that we can better utilize space we badly need.

**Within the next several weeks, you will receive our annual end-of-the-year appeal letter.**

Donations to this appeal will be split between the Endowment and Operations, unless you instruct us differently.



We are so grateful for your past and current support as well as your time, stories and enthusiasm. With your help we look forward to a **bright future!**

## Planned Giving

When you donate to the Society's Endowment Fund through the Story County Community Foundation, you are benefiting the Historical Society **forever** through this permanent endowment.

In an endowment, the principal is maintained intact and your gift is invested over time. The earnings from your current and future gifts provide an **ongoing source** of capital, helping do good work today and into the future.

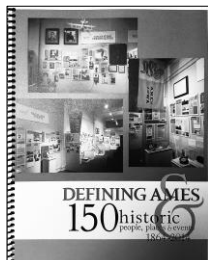
To donate to our Endowment Fund this holiday season, contact the Story County Community Foundation at 515-232-9200 or [storycounty@storycounty-foundation.org](mailto:storycounty@storycounty-foundation.org). The staff at SCCF will direct your donation to the correct fund and provide information about **Endow Iowa Tax Credits** and other benefits.

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## Museum Shop



**THE ENTIRE SHOP** may be viewed on our new website – browse and order online!

**NEW DVDs:** @ \$15, society-produced: *The Mary Greeley Story*; *From Farming to Gravel Pit to City Park*; *The Carr Family and Carr's Pool Story*

**GREAT COMBO:** 1 lb. bag of Onondaga Blend coffee roasted by Burgie's, bean or ground, \$13 and a hand-thrown Ames mug featuring the Bandshell \$18; deep blue or yellow; great for hostess gifts.

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**10% off to all visitors thru 12/22 – plus an additional 25% off for members (see pg. 1)**  
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See Nov. and Dec. hours information on page 2



Volunteer Kellen Vance builds a computer to provide staff with an upgraded, higher-capacity machine.

## Is it time to renew your membership?

Renewals are due on the one-year anniversary of last year's payment. Check this newsletter's label (above your name) for the date yours is due. Memberships fund the day-to-day operations of the Society, so can be a valued community resource. Now – pay online at our updated website!

<b>Introductory - 1st year</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>Partner</b>	<b>\$250</b>
<b>Basic</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>Benefactor</b>	<b>\$500</b>
<b>Friend</b>	<b>\$50</b>	<b>Patron</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>
<b>Sustaining</b>	<b>\$100</b>		

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Ames Historical Society, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010**